

NOVEMBER 7, 1991

Texas herders are slowly and surely moving into the crosshairs for the final kill. On Nov. 7 the Texas Water Well Drillers Board will review a list of regulations on the maintaining of water wells on private property that'll make the check list in the cockpit of a space ship sound like a letter of advice from your Aunt Lucy.

Scheduled for the 23rd of December is a hearing in Federal Court on a suit by the Sierra Club, joined by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission, to take control of the major underground water supply of the Shortgrass Country. If these actions are successful, the livestock raising area of the Edwards Plateau is going to be the biggest dry camp in the nation.

Hopes are slim; however, history tells us the U.S. Cavalry tried camels just a short distance west of us. Also, a few ranchers began raising ostriches before all this ever came about.

Personally, I prefer camels over the ostriches. On those bleak plains of Lower Mongolia, I've watched wild-eyed guys gather camel hair by pulling it off the camels, and it was a lot easier than sheering a sheep. I don't mean the be knocking the big bird operators, but raising a nice little herd of camels seems much better than all that incubator business and egg gathering that goes with bird farming.

Hombres who have been going around bragging about what they're going to do to protect their rights had better be saving their energies to build cisterns and attend prayer meetings. Outfits with catch tanks may turn out to be the luckiest ones. At least they can hold out until it 's ruled who owns the rainwater.

Talk around the various outpost is mighty hostile. Water boards are meeting, and worthies who voted for the well drillers' bill are taking huge backsteps and sloshing a lot of white paint on their records.

But you sure can 't blame the politicos for trying to keep their offices in the state house. As grim as things look today, we may all be running for office next year.